

Remarks

A version with markings to show changes made is attached. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the placement of paper numbers 5 and 6 into the record by the Examiner.

Claims 1-8, 11-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Nishimura (U.S. Patent 6, 398,567). The Examiner contends that Nishimura discloses a card connector having an insulative housing (6) with a plurality of contacts (4) for receiving a card (1); a slider (9, 12) slidably mounted in the housing (6) capable of assuming an ejection position (Fig. 10) for ejecting the card (1) from the housing (6) and a card receiving position (Fig. 12) for receiving the card (1) in the housing (6); a lock member (16) held by the slider (9, 12) for engaging a cut out (17a) on a lateral edge of the card (1) to lock the card (1) in the card receiving position (Fig. 12) the lock member (16) comprises a fixed end portion (20) fixed on the slider (9, 12); a positioning mechanism (18) for positioning the slider (9, 12) in the ejection position (Fig. 10) and the card receiving position (Fig. 12); a free end portion (15) being supported by contacting a support surface (Fig. 13, surface where 15 is located) of the housing (6) when the card receiving position (Fig. 12) and being separated from the support surface (Fig. 13, surface where 15 is located) when in the ejection position (Fig. 10); and a spring piece (29) with an engagement protrusion (31) for engaging the cut out (17a); wherein when the slider (9, 12) is in the ejection position (Fig. 10), the free end portion (15) flexes to disengage the engagement with the cut out (17a) of the card (1) by the extraction of the card (1); when the slider (9, 12) is in the card receiving position (Fig. 12), the free end portion (15) elastically deforms while contacting the support (Fig. 13, surface where 15 is located) to disengage the engagement with the cut out (17a) by the forced extraction of the card (1) as shown in Figs. 10-15.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to more clearly recite that the lock member of the present invention is fixed or mounted to the slider such that the slider and the lock member move together during card insertion. Claim 5 has been amended to remove a redundant element which is recited in claim 4 and to more clearly recite the motion of the free end portion to affect disengagement of the engagement protrusion from the card. Nishimura neither teaches nor suggests that the lock member is mounted on a slider moving between two positions. Nishimura in contradistinction, teaches that the resilient lock arm 15 having an engagement portion 16 is mounted on the card case 6 at a fixed basal end 19. The card case 6 does not move with the card 1 during insertion or extraction of the card. Also in contradistinction, the lock arm's motion is affected by a control member 18 which resiliently displaces the lock arm 15 outward. Nishimura does not teach nor suggest a positioning mechanism for positioning the slider which contains the lock member as required by claim 1. Similarly, Nishimura does not teach nor suggest a movable slider wherein a lock member has a fixed end portion being fixed to the slider as required by claims 1 and 4. Furthermore, Nishimura does not teach nor suggest moving the lock member between a card release position and a card engagement position which are defined by the motion of the slider as recited in claim 4. For these reasons, claims 1 and 4 are believed to define over Nishimura. Reconsideration of the rejection of these claims and those depend therefrom under Section 102(e) is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 9-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura (U.S. Patent 6,398,567) in view of Obara (U.S. Patent 6,071,135). Since these claims depend from amended and allowable claim 4, they are also believed to be allowable for the reasons distinguishing the claimed invention from Nishimura as discussed above. The addition of Obara to the non-relevant Nishimura reference therefore does not teach nor suggest

the claimed combination of claims 9-10 and 13. Reconsideration of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner cares to discuss anything presented here in order to further prosecution of the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SA', is written over a horizontal line.

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. A card connector comprising:
 - an insulative housing with a plurality of contacts for receiving a card;
 - a slider slidably mounted in said housing [~~capable of assuming~~]and being
movable between an ejection position for ejecting said card from said housing and a card receiving position for receiving said card in said housing;
 - a lock member held by and being movable along with said slider for engaging a cutout on a lateral edge of said card to lock said card in said card receiving position said lock member comprises a fixed end portion fixed on said slider;
 - a positioning mechanism for positioning said slider in said ejection position and said card receiving position;
 - a free end portion being supported by contacting a support surface of said housing when in said card receiving position and being separated from said support surface when in said ejection position; and
 - a spring piece with an engagement protrusion for engaging said cutout; wherein
when said slider is in said ejection position, said free end portion flexes to disengage the engagement with said cutout of said card by the extraction of said card; and
when said slider is in said card receiving position, said free end portion elastically deforms while contacting said support surface to disengage the engagement with said cutout by the forced extraction of said card.

4. A card connector comprising:
 - an insulating housing having a plurality of contacts for receiving a card;

a slider being movable between card release and card engagement positions;

a lock member having a fixed end portion being fixed to the slider and an engagement protrusion that engages the card;

a positioning mechanism that moves the lock member between a card release position and a card engagement position and secures the lock member in the card engagement position; and

the lock member having a portion that elastically deforms to disengage from the card when the lock member is secured in the card engagement position [when]and the card is forcibly extracted.

5. The card connector of claim 4, wherein the lock member includes [an engagement protrusion that engages the card and] a free end portion that [flexes] moves away from the card to disengage the engagement protrusion from the card when the lock member is in the card release position.